

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00603 301653Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

DLOS-04 SAL-01 IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OES-06 INT-05

COME-00 /100 W

----- 107671

R 301417Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6262

INFO COMICEDEFOR

BUCBSAA/CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1416

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, GW

SUBJECT: GOI INACTION ON FRG FISHERIES AGREEMENT CRITICIZED

REF: REYKJAVIK 0591 (281630)

1. AS EXPECTED, GOI'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD TAKE NO IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SUSPEND FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH FRG (REFTTEL) HAS BEEN GREETED WITH SOME UNHAPPINESS HERE. BOTH MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SUSPENDING AGREEMENT, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING WITHIN SENIOR COALITION PARTNER INDEPENDENCE PARTY AS WELL.

2. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE SPEARHEADED ATTACK ON DECISION IN ALTHING DEBATE APRIL 28. PA CHAIRMAN CLAIMED FRG HAS HAD ENOUGH TIME TO WORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ICELAND-
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EEC TARIFF PACT AND RECALLED IMPORTANCE GOI HAD ATTACHED TO

SUCH IMPLEMENTATION AT TIME FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH BONN WAS REACHED. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN SAID HIS PARTY'S STAND REMAINED ONE OF OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT WITH FRG. MAVERICK IP ALTHING MEMBER ALBERT GUDMUNDSSON ALSO CRITICIZED DECISION, SAYING HE WAS SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NOT USED THIS WEAPON IT HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL. FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON, WHO HAS BEEN ONLY PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER TO DEFEND COALITION'S ACTION, TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO INTERRUPT PROCESS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO TARIFF BENEFITS FOR ICELANDIC GOODS. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT REPRIVE WOULD NOT BE INDEFINITE.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY HARSH. IN ADDITION, REBEL IP DAILY DAGBLADID DENOUNCED GOI DECISION ADDING THAT IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE GIVEN HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT'S IRRESOLUTION IN FISHERIES MATTERS. IP-AFFILIATED VISIR OFFERED SOMEWHAT LABORED DEFENSE OF DECISION, BUT STRESSED THAT GOVERNMENT MUST NOT WAIT TOO LONG FOR PROTOCOL SIX IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE ACTING TO SUSPEND FISHERIES PACT.

4. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING REACTION HAS BEEN SILENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S PRESS AND LEADERSHIP (WITH EXCEPTION OF AGUSTSSON'S RATHER LUKEWARM DEFENSE). ALTHOUGH KEY PP OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, PARTY HAS SHOWN RELUCTANCE THUS FAR TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH IT.

MARTIN

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